REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 7, 10, 13-15, and 18 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 13, 15, and 18. Claims 4-6, 8-9, 11-12, 16-17 and 19-40 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for amended Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 13, 15, and 18 can be found in the original specification, claims, and drawings.[1] No new matter has been added.

The outstanding Office Action objected to the specification and claims because of informalities; Claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 1-6, 8-26, and 28-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Information Technology – JPEG 2000 Image Coding System (ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 29/WG 1 N1646R; hereinafter "ISO/IEC"); and Claims 7 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over ISO/IEC in view of Christopoulos (IEEE vol. 46, pages 1103-1127, 2000, "The JPEG2000 Still Image Coding System: An Overview"; hereinafter "Christopoulos").

In response to the objection to the specification, the specification has been amended in accordance with the suggestions set forth in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the objections to the claims, it is noted that Claims 4, 9, 12, 20-22, 24, 27, 29, 32, 35-37, and 40 have been cancelled and thus the objections to these claims are moot. Applicants have amended Claims 2 and 7 in accordance with the suggestions set forth in the outstanding Office Action. In response to the objection to Claim 13, Applicants respectfully note that the phrase "the header and" at line 14 has antecedent basis at line 6 of

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[1] See the specification at page 24, lines 10-20 and page 25, line 18 to page 26, line 13.

Claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claim 39 has been cancelled and thus the rejection has become moot.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-6, 8-26, and 28-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection and traverse the rejection as discussed next.

Briefly summarizing, Claim 1 is directed to a picture encoding apparatus including

> ...arithmetic encoding means for applying arithmetic encoding to an input picture to generate an encoded codestream;
>
> splitting means for splitting said encoded codestream into a plurality of layers;
>
> packet generating means for generating a plurality of packets from one layer to another;
>
> error correction encoding means for applying error correction encoding to data of a header and/or a packet or packets of a predetermined one or more layers; and
>
> embedding means for embedding an inspection symbol generated by said error correction encoding means in a *predetermined* packet or packets.

Turning now to the applied reference, ISO/IEC describes the JPEG-2000 image coding system which utilizes pointer marker segments that point to specific offsets in a bit stream.[2] ISO/IEC also states that "marker segments might assist a parser or decoder."[3] However, ISO/IEC fails to teach or suggest an "embedding means for embedding an inspection symbol generated by said error correction encoding means in a *predetermined* packet or packets," as in Applicants' amended independent Claim 1.

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[2] See ISO/IEC at page 13, Section A.1.2.
[3] See ISO/IEC at page 51, Section A.9.

The outstanding Office Action at page 5 states that "…page 18, Fig. A-2, 'required at each tile-part header' shows that a lower layer is an inherent layer for which a symbol or marker will be embedded." However, neither Fig. A-2 of <u>ISO/IEC</u> nor any other section of <u>ISO/IEC</u> teaches or suggests embedding an inspection symbol in a *predetermined* packet or packets.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over <u>ISO/IEC</u>.

Independent Claim 10 is directed to a picture encoding method, the method including

> … an embedding step of embedding an inspection symbol
> generated by said error correction encoding step in the
> *predetermined* packets.

As mentioned above, <u>ISO/IEC</u> fails to teach or suggest embedding an inspection symbol in predetermined packets. Thus, <u>ISO/IEC</u> fails to teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claim 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 10 and all claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over <u>ISO/IEC</u>.

Independent Claim 13 is directed to a picture decoding apparatus, the apparatus including

> … extraction means for extracting said inspection symbol from
> said *predetermined* packet or packets….

As mentioned above, <u>ISO/IEC</u> fails to teach or suggest embedding an inspection symbol in predetermined packets. Thus, <u>ISO/IEC</u> fails to teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claim 13. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 13 and all claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over <u>ISO/IEC</u>.

Independent Claim 18 is directed to a picture decoding method, the method including

> … an extraction step of extracting said inspection symbol from
> said *predetermined* packet or packets….

As mentioned above, ISO/IEC fails to teach or suggest embedding an inspection symbol in predetermined packets. Thus, ISO/IEC fails to teach or suggest each and every element of independent Claim 18. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 18 patentably distinguishes over ISO/IEC.

In response to the rejection of Claims 7 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection and traverse the rejection as discussed next.
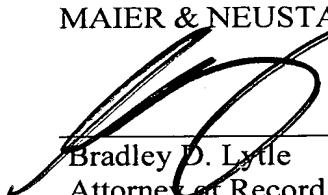
Dependent Claim 7 depends on independent Claim 1 and is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Christopoulos fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies of ISO/IEC. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be of Claim 7 withdrawn.

In response to the rejection of Claim 27, Claim 27 has been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 27 has become moot.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-3, 7, 10, 13-15, and 18 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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